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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Klaus Buecher *et al.*

Serial 09/329,258
No.:

Examiner: A. Fortuna

Filing Date: 06/10/1999

Art Unit: 1723

Title: MEMBRANE ELEMENT AND PROCESS FOR ITS PRODUCTION

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TC 100 MAIL ROOM

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AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Office Action dated February 14, 2001, concerning the above-referenced patent application.

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, please substitute for original claim 1, the following rewritten version of claim 1, as amended. The changes are shown explicitly in the attached "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made.":

1. (Once Amended) A membrane assembly comprising:

pl

(a) a core;

(b) a membrane element surrounding said core;

(c) a sheath which surrounds said membrane element and said core, wherein said sheath comprises polymer films wound around said

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